

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinzer, U.S. Patent No. 5,338,693 in view of Spring et al. (Spring), U.S. Patent No. 5,831,318.

The present application was filed on February 9, 1998. Spring was issued on November 3, 1998. Thus, Spring is a reference, if at all, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Section 103(c) of title 35 provides: "Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." 35 U.S.C. 103(c)(Amended 1999). Section 103(c) is applicable to all applications filed after November 29, 1999. MPEP §706.02 (L)(1) provides further details in this regard.

This application is assigned now, and was subject to assignment at the time of filing of this application, to International Rectifier Corporation of El Segundo, CA. Spring was also subject to assignment, and assigned, to International Rectifier Corporation of El Segundo, CA at the time of filing of this application. The application files for Spring and this application refer to recorded assignments, which establish common ownership. See MPEP §706.02(I)(II); 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a)(5)(i). Spring is not, therefore, a proper reference against the instant application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(Amended 1999), and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, the present application should be deemed allowable and advanced to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 25, 2007:

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Name of applicant, assignee or  
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Signature  
January 25, 2007

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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